

school of pharmacy at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the first professional school in South Texas. She also was a driving force in securing passage of the 10 percent plan, which makes the top 10 percent of students in every high school eligible for admission to any state college or university, in the wake of the devastating Hopwood decision.

Representative Rangel grew up in Kingsville, Texas. Her father picked cotton and learned to read and write on his own and later owned several businesses. In 1952, she received a degree in business administration from Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University-Kingsville). She was a teacher for 14 years in schools in Robstown and Alice, Texas, in Venezuela and in Menlo Park, California. She earned a law degree from St. Mary University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas in 1969; she later served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Adrian A. Spears and as an assistant district attorney in Nueces County before opening her own law practice.

During her lifetime, Representative Rangel received many professional honors. She was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. Other awards include the Legislator of the Year award from the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas; Women's Political Caucus' Texas Mexican-American Woman of the Year in 1979; Unsung Heroines Award in 1991 from the Women's Advocacy Project; Latina Lawyer of the Year from the Hispanic National Bar Association; and Texas Woman of the Century from the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Texas.

Her commitment to the people and families of South Texas, especially in improving access to higher education, has left a lasting legacy. Irma Rangel will be remembered as a woman who, through her lifetime of work and service, demonstrated her commitment to community. We will all miss her.

MR. RICHARD WITTENBERG HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to recognize the achievements of Richard Wittenberg, County Executive for Santa Clara County. Mr. Wittenberg is retiring after 8 years of dedicated service to the people of Santa Clara County.

When ZOE LOFGREN was on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, she searched the state of California to find Richard. In the years that followed, Richard won the hearts of many elected officials by responding quickly to their needs, having high ethical standards and working to build consensus.

Richard came to Santa Clara County from Ventura County, California where he was the Chief Executive Officer for 16 years. During his tenure there, he held various offices of the County Administrative Officers Association of California; was a member of the Commission on California Public-Private Partnership; and a member of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Advisory Committee.

A leader in the community as well as in his field, Richard has volunteered for the United Way, as a board member for the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, Boy Scouts of America, and as a board member of the Anti-Defamation League.

Richard leaves Santa Clara County in better shape than he arrived: the County Executive now oversees a staff of 16,000 and a \$3.8 billion budget that covers the operations of parks, libraries and the sheriff's department, as well as the region's neediest residents.

Under Richard Wittenberg's dedicated leadership, Santa Clara County earned the highest bond ratings issued to any county in the state, garnering an AA+ from Standard and Poor's, and a AA2 from Moody's. Meanwhile, reserves grew from \$12 million in the mid-1990's to \$96 million in 2002.

We wish to thank Richard Wittenberg for his tireless and loyal service to the County and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Though we will miss his creativity, expertise and commitment, his dedication has left its mark on Santa Clara County.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Republic of Tunisia, who is today celebrating the 47th anniversary of its independence. Mr. Speaker, the relationship between the United States and Tunisia is based on friendship and cooperation that dates back centuries ago. I am pleased that the ties between Tunisia and the United States continues to be strong. As the United States embarks on its quest to fight the scourge of terrorism, it is comforting to know that Tunisia is also committed to join the United States in this fight.

I also would like to take this opportunity to applaud Tunisia in its effort to promote democratic governance in the region. Tunisia is one of the leading North African countries that has increased its literacy and life expectancy rates and drastically reduced the mortality rates for Tunisian children under five.

Once again, I rise to commemorate Tunisia on its 47th anniversary. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO LEON BRIDGES

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, as I listen to the constant references to "tax breaks for the rich" and "big business" in the speeches of those that oppose the President's Economic

Growth Package, I can't help but think of my constituent Leon Bridges.

Leon is not rich and his business is not big, but like millions of hard working Americans he is the heart and soul of the American Economy. Leon Bridges is a homebuilder and developer who employs carpenters, mason, and laborers to build homes that shelter families in my district. He borrows money to build from our community banks, and guarantees its repayment through the long hours he works. When his houses and lots sell and he makes a profit, he pays the taxes that fund the government we in this House oversee.

Leon Bridges and the millions of taxpayers like him deserve the President's Economic Growth Package and the tax reductions it includes. While some choose to demonize those who work hard, take risks, and provide jobs, I believe we should reward them—for it is they that make America prosper.

WHEN WAR COMES

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of the sad events leading up to this war, I have fought as a U.S. Congressman and with an enduring sense of duty and compassion for all Americans, to oppose a war that I believe is unjust and unnecessary at this time.

Now that the fighting has begun and the brave men and women of our armed forces go forward into harm's way, we must honor their sacrifices and we humbly salute their service.

As Americans we are united in prayers for their safe return. And we hope that a victory will lead us to a different era when violence will be replaced by a new vision of justice, tolerance, security and peace, for all people.

As I support our troops' dedication to service and commitment to getting the job done with as little loss of life as possible, as a Congressman and as an American I remain convinced that diplomacy should always be primary and war secondary.

Sometimes the course of history cannot be changed and nations on a collision course cannot be diverted from each other. This is one of those times. However, this too shall pass.

As we look toward the future, as we pledge to help rebuild a post-war Iraq, I would sincerely urge the Bush Administration to also work to rebuild our relationship with the people and countries that comprise the United Nations.

Already, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan is offering his hand in cooperation. Today, he said, "Let us not dwell on the divisions of the past. Let us confront the harsh realities of the present, however harsh, and look for ways to forge stronger unity in the future."

Also, he said, "The peoples of the world . . . have made clear that . . . they want to see power harnessed to legitimacy. They want their leaders to come together, in the United Nations, to resolve the problems shared by all humanity," the Secretary-General said.

And I agree.

It is only through mutual respect and cooperation between nations that we can mount a sustained fight to end global acts of terrorism.